



THE GEORGIAN REPORT



St. George's Church Schenectady, NY

March 2015

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Who says you can't mix business with pleasure? The Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 25th was a business meeting, vestry elections, good fellowship, and a Georgian feast all rolled into one.

Senior Warden Chris Henry presided over the brief meeting. Recording secretary Karen Perka took notes. And everyone listened intently.

There was good conversation and laughter galore....and a wonderful meal of Caesar salad, baked ziti, Italian bread, meat balls, sausage/peppers/onions, and plenty of sauce and grated Parmesan cheese to top it off.

Both the Reverend Charles King and the Reverend Michael Webber, two of our supply priests, also attended.



SALUTING ST. GEORGE'S VOLUNTEERS

Georgians come in all shapes, sizes and ages. They also come in three generations of the Todt family who have supported St. George's Church since the late 1950s....with a few years' absence in-between. Bob and Barbara Todt made sure their children were baptized at St. George's. Bob's job at GE precipitated a move out west for a few years, then the family returned to Glenville and tried out a few different churches before setting up their religious roots again at St. George's. "That was back in the mid-80s," said son Mike.



(L-R) Barbara, Kathleen, Michael, Stephanie, and Connie Todt.

When Mike and Connie's oldest daughter Stephanie was in 2nd grade at St. Helen's Catholic School (1998) and it was time for her to prepare for first Holy Communion, she was given the choice of going to religious instruction with her classmates but, instead, she decided on "grandma and grandpa's church." It was then that the 2nd and 3rd generation of Todts became a "serious churchgoing family at St. George's."

Throughout the years, the Todts have been staunch volunteers in various capacities. Bob passed away suddenly in 2008 but is still remembered for his charm, wit and dedication to different church ministries. Barb has volunteered with pastoral care, the shop, bake sales, and numerous "behind the scenes" activities like cooking for the art show. Mike served on the Vestry for two terms and, as Junior Warden, spearheaded the rectory renovation. He currently is a volunteer Lector and Greeter. Connie, also currently a Greeter, was involved with Christian Education as well as other children ministries in the past. Daughters Stephanie and Kathleen were acolytes for many years and involved with the teen group when it was active. They still maintain their friendships with other young adult Georgians, sit in the pews on Sundays with their parents and grandmother when possible, and even assist as Greeters with Mike and Connie.

"Connie and I prefer the traditional mass, the incense, the music," Mike said, explaining that Connie was raised in a similar church in a Roman Catholic environment. What are the Todts looking for in a new rector? They have some very definite preferences. "Someone comfortable with Rite I, who will keep the music ministry going. Someone flexible enough to keep two congregations happy. Someone who will continue with a sung mass and thought-provoking sermons."

Although all five of the Todts are busy....Barb lives the winter months in a mobile home in Myrtle Beach and the rest of the time in her Glenville apartment....Mike is Lead Scientist at Sabac Innovative Plastics....Connie is Manager of Therapeutic Recreation at Sunnyview....Stephanie graduates in May from Clarkson with her master's degree in Counselor Education/Student Affairs.....and Kathleen is enrolled in Health Studies at SCCC, trying to decide between nursing or x-ray technician, and also works at Panera in Glenville....they are never too busy to remember their church. "We all have a lot going on, and we might not get there as often as we should, but St. George's is an important part of our lives," Mike offered, ending with they're never too busy to work at a ministry that suits their busy schedules.

lynn paska

OUTREACH

In this exceptionally cold 2014/2015 winter, Georgians warmed to providing for those less fortunate. On Saturday, December 13th, 2014, Jon Pearson, Jean Greenspan, Toni Cilberti, Alice Polumbo, Judy and Gene DeLong, the Moran family, the Tonneau family, Dusty Ann Ifflander, along with Nancy and Johnnie Angus, completed a five-hour shift ringing the bell for the Salvation Army's annual holiday appeal at the Eastern Parkway Price Chopper.



Gene & Judy DeLong



Jon Pearson & Jean Greenspan



Toni Cilberti

“Wrapping up” 2014, St. George’s donated 20 plus generously-filled gift bags for Things of My Very Own to distribute to Schenectady County foster children. For 2014, St. George’s collected 969 pounds of food for SICM’s food pantry and turned in six cell phones to the YWCA.



As 2015 began, so too did a new parish outreach project. Children in the Schenectady school district all too often come to school improperly clothed. In coordination with Laura Denifio, a school district social worker, St. George’s is providing undergarments and socks, sizes 5 to 10, to help make sure students aren’t impeded in their learning process. There has been an excellent Georgian response thus far. Rosemarie Jacquith has already delivered over 40 packages of the requested items.

Forty is a key word for Lenten outreach at St. George’s. Georgians are challenged to continue filling the clothes hamper in the Great Hall foyer with undergarments in the hope that another 40 packages can be delivered by Easter.



In addition, in support of SICM’s food pantry, Georgians are challenged to collect forty unique soup varieties by Easter.

alice polumbo

MUSIC OUTREACH



“Outreach Outings” is an important music ministry as Andrew Krystopolski and his St. Cecilia Choir perform three times a year (September through June) at The Glen Eddy, Heritage Home for Women, Kingsway, and Wynwood.

Choir members regularly volunteering are: Louisa Carr, Julie Decker, Suzanne Hartz, Rembert Herbert, Bob Moran, Bob Paska, Joan Pearson, Diane Reed, Dawn Tonneau, Suzy Unger, and Jeff Wengrovius. It helps establish a rapport when a personal connection is made with the audience, and on certain visits to (for example) Kingsway, guest singers include Arthur DeLuke, who has two sisters living there, and Paul Nooney, whose grandmother Elsie is a resident as well.

Each performance is 40-50 minutes of anthems, psalms, favorite choir hymns, and those recently sung at Mass. Andrew explained, “Familiarity is the name of the game when it comes to assisted care ministry....like J.S. Bach’s *Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring*, or Mozart’s *Ave Verum Corpus*.” He added that *Amazing Grace* is the most popular of the hymns. “It spans denominations and is known by everyone. It’s a holy moment when residents sit staring to space through our whole program but perk up when we sing *Amazing Grace*, their lips move, and

they are moved by the Spirit in the music.”

Andrew receives positive feedback from the various Directors of Activities. “They’re always looking for ways to keep the residents’ minds active....especially those with dementia and Alzheimer’s. Music is a key ingredient; it’s stimulating. It’s important that our choir visits them other than just at Christmastime. We can’t forget these folks who are the last of *The Greatest Generation*.”

The power of music is beyond human understanding, inspired by some kind of divine intervention and inspiration. “To be able to participate in that sound is a privilege,” said Andrew. “To share that, to touch another person’s life, is a gift from God.”

For Andrew, personally, music is his gift to give. “Maybe that’s why I became a church musician. It’s bringing a smile and a memory back to someone through music. Anytime we sing somewhere, we do so as an extension of the congregation.” It makes Andrew proud, as Choir Director and a Parishioner, to represent St. George’s in our community.

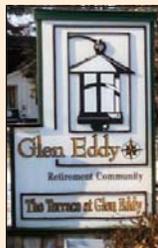
When asked if there is anything he would like to share about this “Outreach Outing,” Andrew, always the advocate, quipped, “Yes. Join the choir so you, too, can participate.”

lynn paska



ASSISTED CARE MINISTRY

.....”and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them.”



The recent roots of St. George’s assisted care ministry stems from Fr. Wampler’s visitations to the former Dutch Manor and Avenue A (now Capital Living) facilities. Fr. Paul Blanch expanded this



Suzy Unger & Joan Pearson conducting a service at Capital Living

pastoral commitment to Scotia Mansion, The Glen Eddy Retirement Community, and he accepted an invitation from Kingsway Community not long before he departed. He also incorporated a lay component so that it is truly St. George’s church making the various month visitations.

Under Andrew Krystopolski and Judith Smith’s guidance, the lay aspect of the monthly pastoral care visitations has continued. The Noonday service of the Daily Office has been tailored to provide a spiritually meaningful interaction between Georgians and facility residents on a monthly basis. In addition to Andrew and Judith, Joan Pearson, Suzy Unger, Pauline Holmes, Dot Dever, Jean Geenspan, Nancy Angus and Alice Pumbo form the nucleus of the assisted care ministry team.

Recently, Fr. Webber has begun celebrating mass at one location per month in an effort to make sure all residents have the opportunity to receive the sacrament at least twice a year.

Viewed as an extension of our own parish, all Georgians are welcome and encouraged to participate in this vibrant pastoral outreach.

alice pumbo



Glen Eddy residents & Georgians pose following a recent prayer service

CHRISTMAS 2014



Christmas joy filled St. George's from the moment Fr. Paul lighted the first Advent candle. This year's joy included blessing new Stations of the Cross on the First Sunday of Advent, connecting our two most important Church seasons. Georgians shared the joy of giving by contributing piles of hats, headbands, scarves, and gloves to the YWCA and Salvation Army, and in filling gift bags for the county's foster children sponsored by *Things of My Very Own*.

Each week there was joy in the familiar scripture readings and music rich with harmonies. A celebration of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 14th combined hymns, songs of praise and Bible readings "to hear the message of the Angels," followed by the first festive reception of the season. Residents of the Glen Eddy were delighted when the choir shared these carols and Christmas hymns during a visit there on December 21st.

There was joy while "Greening the Church" on December 21st, the annual transformation: Creche moved to the more visible north side, candles and greenery all around, and pointsettias lining the altars. Don Ingram began his prelude on Christmas Eve in a candle-lit hush: then came the magnificent procession with baby Jesus, cradled by Fr. King, as we all sang "O come, let us adore Him!" A Midnight Mass choir of 19 plus the violins of Sean Jones, Evan Ducreay and Joshua Whitehead, under Andrew Krystopolski's direction, filled the sanctuary with Richard Shephard's gorgeous *Mass of the Nativity*. After the final Gospel, a laughter-filled Sweets and Savories reception in the Great Hall lasted into the wee hours.

Christmas joy continued when the Magi reached the Creche at the Feast of Epiphany on January 6th. Fr. King explained that we don't really know how many wise men there were and that there likely were more than three treasures given. Epiphany means "make known." We celebrate Christ's becoming known to us, not the gifts. And for that we are all thankful.



joan pearson



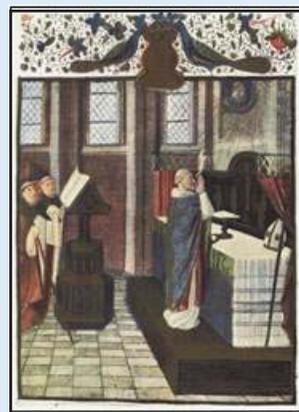
EPISCOPAL EDUCATION

Should Priests Face the People or the Altar?

It's easy to find a continuing discussion about whether the priest should face toward the people or away from the people when celebrating the Mass. Some view it as a Rite I vs. Rite II issue but is it really? Does the prayer book specify which direction the priest should face? And if so, why? Here's a little background.

East or West – The orientation of the altar has some importance. Christian altars are normally oriented to face east - not toward Jerusalem as some might expect, but toward the rising sun, a biblical symbol of Christ. East is associated with Christ's Incarnation, Resurrection and Ascension and the light of His Second Coming. Our worship is properly directed that way, although individual churches may be oriented differently due to local terrain or other issues.

In earliest times, the altar was normally free-standing. That gradually changed such that by the 17th century most altars were massive and built into the east wall, surrounded by elaborate reredos. With the 1960s changes of Vatican II, the supposed ancient free-standing altar position returned in Roman Catholic and Anglican churches, although usually remaining in the east end of the church.



A bishop celebrates Mass *as oriendem*, Project Gutenberg Archives 16531, 15th cent.

Where Stands the Priest? - We know the altar location but while there is little record of where the priest actually stood, scholars are now concluding that celebration of the Eucharist with the priest facing the people was not the practice of the early Church. They mostly agree it is an apostolic tradition that celebration turned towards the east, towards the Christ who is coming.

So our Eucharistic Celebration faces east and the people worship facing east, towards the altar. Historically the priest also faces the altar as the priest is not the focus of the people's worship, indeed the priest should as much as possible be invisible, but the leader of worship for all.

Priests are not turning their back on the people as some allege, any more than people in the pews ahead turn their back to those behind. It is not who the priest turns away from but who he turns toward. The priest and people face a common eastward direction *ad orientem* (to the east) as they pray to God.

The priest turns and speaks to the people at certain times (Salutation, Absolution, Sursum Corda, Blessing, Dismissal) and turns to the altar, offering prayers to God, for the remainder of the Mass.

The fairly recent practice of the priest facing *versus populum* (towards people) is thought to have started from at least two sources – (1) in the Catholic Church's changes of Vatican II, the Roman Missal says "...the main altar should be freestanding so that the ministers can walk around it and Mass can (*not must*) be celebrated facing the people, and (2) the Catholic Church changed their practice to follow St Peter's and some other basilicas in Rome which, due to difficult terrain, are oriented towards the west, resulting in the eastward-facing priest facing the people. The Anglican Church followed soon thereafter.



This appears to have aspects of *ad orientem* and *versus populum*. Origin unknown

What Does the Prayer Book Say? – The BCP really says nothing on this. In fact, the BCP *Holy Eucharist I* and *Holy Eucharist II* are exactly the same – they both make a distinction between times when the priest faces the people and times when the priest faces the altar. This implies that the priest faces different directions for different things – when he is speaking to the people, he faces them. When he is leading the people in praying to God, he faces the altar.

Rite I vs. Rite II – It's not a Rite I-II issue. While Rite II liturgy is somewhat simpler and set in modern language, the Canon of the Mass (Offertory through Communion) is fundamentally the same. The priest and people corporately pray to God and it is completely acceptable for the priest to face the altar. Likewise, no rubric prohibits Rite I from being celebrated *versus populum*.

Portions of this article are based on personal conversations with the Rev. Tobias S. Haller, BSG during his November 2011 visit to St George's and his related article "People, Look East".

david kennison

GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY

St. George's Good Samaritan ministry began in November 2011, originated by Dawn Tonneau, providing rides, meals and other assistance to parishioners in need. Beginning January 2015, this ministry welcomed Amy Machold as the new coordinator.

Amy and her husband Dan have attended St. George's for 21 years and were married here in 1995. Amy's occupation is as a Senior Billing and Audit Clerk for the Schenectady County Job Training Agency. She has also worked in human services as a direct care provider for the Wildwood programs, and provided office services to the police department. Her background in the private and public sector, as well as human services, makes her a welcome addition to this program. At St. George's, Amy's involvement is mostly "behind the scenes." In the past, she participated in the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Chapter. Now, she is often found prepping, cooking and cleaning as part of the Hospitality Committee; Altar Guild work; providing meals with James Wingate to the Lighthouse program operated through Bethesda House; and, a Good Samaritan volunteer.

In spite of her busy schedule, Amy has taken the reins of this ministry with a passion for what the program can accomplish. She sees people getting together at church, but not always having the chance to really get to know each other. She hopes the Good Samaritan program will be one way this may happen. She likes the fact that volunteers provide very simple things that anyone can appreciate, adding that even a phone call can make a difference to someone experiencing a trying time. Amy's goal is to bring the volunteers together to discuss the program and its future. She looks forward to working closely with the Pastoral Care program and eventually our new Rector, to continue to connect with parishioners needing Good Samaritan services.

dawn tonneau



St. George's Vestry 2015

A group picture was taken after Vestry elections at the Annual Parish Meeting. (Front row, L-R) Robert Paska, Louisa Carr, Dawn Tonneau, Jane Moran, Jeffrey Wengrovius. (Back row, L-R) Karen Perka, Jonathan Pearson, Christopher Henry, Richard Forshaw, Grant Jacquith. Missing from picture: James Whitehead.

- SENIOR WARDEN REPORT -



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter the season of Lent, it is time for reflection and reevaluation. We look inward to evaluate our lives and see where we can make more room for Christ as we wait in blessed anticipation for our Easter celebration. Many have already looked inward and have rededicated themselves. The signs of rededication through involvement are all around us. We have maintained our Sunday worship as well as Feast Days and Saints Days during the week. A special “thank you” to our supply clergy: Fr. King, Fr. Webber, Fr. Schofield, and Deacon Howard Smith.

We have maintained the Daily Office during the week as well. A dedicated core of volunteers have been in the Church throughout the week (usually without heat) and a small band of parishioners have sometimes joined them. We have maintained our Sacristy, our Acolytes, and all that goes along with supporting our liturgies. Our Thursday night Lenten course continues with insightful conversation from Kevin Grace. This interim period has become an opportunity for many to become directly involved in the day to day running of St. George's.

As we move through Lent toward Holy Week, our involvement becomes greater. The Stations of the Cross are offered Saturdays, beginning with Morning Prayer at 10AM, and Confession is offered on Wednesdays at 5PM. Holy Week itself will be as full as it has ever been: beginning with the usual procession from the Great Hall on Palm Sunday; Daily Masses scheduled on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; our traditional Tenebrae Service Wednesday evening; Maundy Thursday; Good Friday; and Holy Saturday Services followed by The Great Vigil, all culminating in Easter Sunday with both Masses accompanied by festive brass. I almost feel guilty waiting in joyful anticipation.

Yours in Christ, Chris

- JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT -



Trying to stay ahead of problems that come up....

....there have been many areas of expense due to this winter's cold and snow.

- Stacking snow in the parking lot. Cost: \$250.00
- Taking ice off St. George's House roof. Cost: \$560.00
- Removal of ice around dormer and valley of Cranmer House. Did get leaks in the 1st and 2nd floor of Cranmer House.
- Removal of snow back of Church and the flat roof at 23 Front Street. Cost: \$1,050.00
- Opening the drains on the Great Hall roof. Cost: \$350.00
- Purchased 175 bags of salt. One hundred bags over the past year.
- Purchased a new washer and dryer. Cost \$950.00 We also needed tile and purchased some paint, and the room looks great.



rick forshaw

PARISH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany sponsored a one-day Parish Leadership Conference at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich on February 28th. Approximately 200 people attended, representing a majority of the parishes in the diocese, including three of our Vestry members: Bob Paska, Karen Perka, and Jeff Wengrovius, who were assigned to different round tables.



Bob Paska: “Sitting with people from different churches was an experience. We were asked, “How did Jesus come into your life?” Some answers were personal; others related to church outreach involvement. After a break, we returned to our assigned tables and were asked to describe something currently happening in our parish to draw people to God. One church leader described how her church is using a method called “street side table” ministries, targeting people off the street to regain their faith. During these discussions, a member of each table was asked to write down answers for tabulation. After lunch, attendees gathered in The Chapel of St. Michael and All Angels to hear the survey results. I enjoyed interacting with parishioners from my prior church. I learned that most churches are facing similar problems: low attendance and minuscule pledging.”



Karen Perka: “Bishop William Love presided over the conference and kicked off the morning session introducing a missionary group from the Sudan. The Episcopal Bishop of Sudan spoke with the help of an interpreter about the trials and tribulations of an estimated 1.8 million Sudanese refugees

suffering from the civil wars in the country and the persecution of Christians. The Bishop of Sudan thanked the people of our diocese for the missionary work and outreach to their cause. The morning session continued with assigned table participants from different parishes discussing and witnessing how God has called us into our spiritual growth and what parish programs are assisting with fellowship and bringing people closer to Christ. The afternoon session focused on the results from table discussions and after the program completed, the Conference ended with a Rite II service.”



Jeff Wengrovius: “My key take-away from the Parish Leadership Conference was the focus on Christian Education for our Youth. During the Conference, the Bishop presented John Iseman, who is the head of the Diocese of Albany’s active youth ministry. The afternoon session began with an in-depth report from John, who spoke eloquently about his small team of Youth Interns. In fact, many of the Interns facilitated the table discussions during the morning session as well. This organizational outreach is available to St. George’s in the future. John and his hard-working Interns regularly visit individual parishes in the diocese that are looking for ways to organize and start up or refresh their youth clubs. This is potentially a valuable resource for St. George’s as we anticipate going forward and working with our new rector to revive our youth programs.”

Consensus of opinion is that the dialogue and diversity from Conferences like this help every church, and every church can benefit from participating.

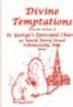
lynn paska

LENTEN SERIES



Kevin Grace presided over this year’s Lenten series entitled **Questioning Capital Punishment**. After viewing the film “Dead Man Walking,” on February 26th, the ensuing 5 Thursdays focused on discussing the controversial film that pitted two schools of thought against each other: state-sponsored violence vs healing our culture through non-violence.

Jim Wingate’s “Visitations” column and Jon Pearson’s “Treasurer’s Report” are on hiatus for this issue....but will resume in June.



Remember - “Divine Temptations,” our latest cookbook with delicious recipes from the kitchens of St. George’s (including a gluten-free section), is still available for yourself and for gifting, at the reduced price of just \$10.

Church Chuckles: Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the snake, and the snake didn’t have a leg to stand on.



“We Are the Church”



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The Georgian Report

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EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Liturgy of the Palms Sung Mass, Rite II
(Sunday, March 29) 10:00 AM

Monday in Holy Week (March 30)
 12:15 PM Mass

Tuesday in Holy Week (March 31)
 5:30 PM Mass

Wednesday in Holy Week (April 1)
 5:00 PM Confession
 5:30 PM Mass
 7:00 PM Tenebrae

Maundy Thursday (April 2)
 The Mass of the Last Supper 7:00 PM
 All-Night Vigil @ the Altar of Repose

Good Friday (April 3)
 Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 12:30 PM

Easter Eve - Holy Saturday (April 4)
 Pro-Anaphora 9:00 AM (in the Holy Family Chapel)

The Great Vigil and
First Mass of Easter (April 4)
 Solemn High Mass 7:00 PM
Easter Reception Following

Easter Sunday (April 5)
 Morning Prayer 8:30 AM
 Solemn High Mass of the Resurrection 9:00 AM
 Sung Mass, Rite II 11:15 AM